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To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain *in Parliament Assembled; The Return of the Commissioners of the Customs to an Order of this Honourable House, dated the* 18*th Instant, directing the said Commissioners to lay before this House, An* Account *of the Bonds taken for Prize Goods brought into* Jamaica, *which were unsatisfied upon the first of* June *last, according to the Directions of the Act pass'd the 9th Year of Her Majesty's Reign, for the Encouragement of the Trade to* America.

THE said Commissioners do humbly acquaint this Honourable House, that soon after the passing the said Act the last Session, they transmitted the same to the Officers of the Customs at *Jamaica*, with Directions to certify to this Board the Tenor of the said Bonds, and for what Duties the same Bonds or Securities were taken, and by whom given, that they might be enabled to answer the Directions of the Clause in the said Act relating thereunto.

That the Beginning of the last Month, the Commissioners receiv'd an Account thereof in a Letter from Mr. *Peter Beckford*, Collector of the Customs at the said Island, dated the 9th of *October* last, which original Account is hereunto annexed, marked N°. 1. to which the Commissioners humbly pray to be referr'd, and for a clearer View thereof, annexed is a Schedule taken from the same Account, and is contain'd in another Paper, N°. 2. by which it appears, that the Penalties of the said Bonds remaining unsatisfied the 1st of *June* last, amount to *l.* 54830. And the Duties for which the said Bonds were given amount only to *l.* 9043. But the Commissioners pray leave to observe to this Honourable House, that they find by the said Accounts, that some of the Bonds are given to answer the Duties upon *French* Linnens, Woollen, Silks, and other *European* Prize Goods, which are not enumerated amongst the Goods mention'd in the second Section of the said Act, nor the Bonds given for the Duties thereof taken notice of among those that are to remain without Prosecution.

That the Commissioners have been attended by Major-General *Handasyd*, late Governour, Coll. *Lloyd* and others, who have been Inhabitants of the said Island, in order to the examining into the Case and Circumstances of the respective Persons liable to the said unsatisfied Bonds and Securities, pursuant to the said Act; which, as the Commissioners acquainted those Gentlemen, directed the Examination to be taken on Oath, as well as by other lawful Ways and Means, and desired them to give in the same accordingly; but they have only transmitted the annex'd Certificate, N°. 3. containing the Case and Circumstances of the Persons bound as aforesaid, which they have sign'd, but refuse to make Oath to, when desired by the Commissioners: And we further humbly inform this Honourable House, that the Causes for which the said Bonds were given, as appears by several Letters from the Collector, was to answer

ſwer the Duties charged on Prize Goods, by the Act of Parliament of the 6th of the Queen, entituled, *An Act for the Encouragement of the Trade to* America; for that the Perſons there abſolutely refus'd to pay the ſaid Duties; and the ſaid Collector acquaints the Commiſſioners, in his Letter of the 28th of *November* laſt, which is annex'd, N°. 4. that none of the Securities are dubious or bad, and if the Bonds are not remitted, they will, in his Opinion, be very able to diſcharge them; and that in caſe it ſhall be thought fit, that the ſaid Bonds be remitted, that Care may be taken of the poor Captors that they may have the Benefit thereof, and that the Agents, and ſome few Perſons concern'd with them, may not be the only Gainers thereby, who have detained out of the poor Men's Shares, (ſome of which are ſince dead, or removed into other Parts) a greater Sum, on Pretence of Duties and other Charges, than ever was or could be demanded, and have tired out, and at laſt compounded with others of them, for little or nothing.

All which is humbly ſubmitted to the Conſideration of this Honourable Houſe.

C. Godolphin,
Jo. Werden,
J. Stanley,
M. Prior,
J. Bridges,
Rob. Wmſon,
E. Gibbon.

Cuſtom-houſe, London,
22 Febr. 1711.

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COPY OF THE RETURN

Of the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtoms to an Order of the Honourable Houſe of Commons, touching Bonds given at Jamaica, for the Duty on Prize Goods.